LCO No. 5543

AN ACT CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS BY YOUNG DRIVERS AND PARENT ATTENDANCE AT SAFE DRIVING INSTRUCTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- Section 1. Section 14-36g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):
- 3 (a) Each person who holds a motor vehicle operator's license issued 4 on and after August 1, 2008, and who is sixteen or seventeen years of 5 age shall comply with the following requirements:
- 6 (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, for the 7 period of six months after the date of issuance of such license, such 8 person shall not transport more than (A) such person's parents or legal
- 9 guardian, at least one of whom holds a motor vehicle operator's
- 10 license, or (B) one passenger who is a driving instructor licensed by the
- 11 Department of Motor Vehicles, or a person twenty years of age or
- 12 older who has been licensed to operate, for at least four years
- 13 preceding the time of being transported, a motor vehicle of the same
- 14 class as the motor vehicle being operated and who has not had his or
- 15 her motor vehicle operator's license suspended by the commissioner
- 16 during such four-year period;

- 17 (2) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, for the 18 period beginning six months after the date of issuance of such license 19 and ending one year after the date of issuance of such license, such 20 person shall not transport any passenger other than as permitted 21 under subdivision (1) of this subsection and any additional member or 22 members of such person's immediate family;
 - (3) No such person shall operate any motor vehicle for which a public passenger endorsement, as defined in section 14-1, is required in accordance with the provisions of section 14-44 or a vanpool vehicle, as defined in section 14-1;

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- (4) No such person shall transport more passengers in a motor vehicle than the number of seat safety belts permanently installed in such motor vehicle;
- (5) No such person issued a motorcycle endorsement shall transport any passenger on a motorcycle for a period of six months after the date of issuance; and
 - (6) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no such person shall operate a motor vehicle on any highway, as defined in section 14-1, at or after 11:00 p.m. until and including 5:00 a.m. of the following day unless (A) such person is traveling for his or her employment or school or religious activities, or (B) there is a medical necessity for such travel.
 - (b) A person who holds a motor vehicle operator's license and who is sixteen or seventeen years of age shall not be subject to the restrictions on the number or type of passengers specified in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, or to the restrictions specified in subdivision (6) of said subsection (a), if such person is: An active member of a volunteer fire company or department, a volunteer ambulance service or company or an emergency medical service organization and such person is responding to, or returning from, an emergency or is carrying out such person's duties as such active member; or an assigned driver in a Safe

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- (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection (a) of this section. Such regulations may provide exceptions to the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section for a single parent under the age of eighteen for the purposes of transporting the child of such parent to day care, child care and education facilities, medical appointments, and for such other purposes as may be determined by the commissioner.
- (d) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this section shall be deemed to have committed an infraction. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the motor vehicle operator's license of any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section for a period of thirty days for a first violation, and for a period of six months or until such person attains the age of eighteen years, whichever is longer, for a second violation.
- (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the provisions of this section in effect July 31, 2008, shall be applicable to any person who is sixteen or seventeen years of age and who has been issued a motor vehicle operator's license prior to August 1, 2008.
- 70 Sec. 2. Section 14-36j of the general statutes is repealed and the 71 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):
 - (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall amend the regulations adopted pursuant to sections 14-36f and 14-78 concerning the content of safe driving instruction courses offered at drivers' schools, high schools and other secondary schools to require the eight hours of instruction required by such regulations to include, for applicants to whom a learner's permit or youth instruction permit is issued, two hours of instruction concerning the statutory provisions, including penalties, applicable to drivers who are less than eighteen years of age, the dangers of teenage driving, the cognitive

development of adolescents, the responsibilities and liabilities of parents of teenage drivers, and related topics deemed by the commissioner to be appropriate.

(b) A parent or guardian of any such applicant who is less than eighteen years of age and to whom a learner's permit or youth instruction permit is issued on or after August 1, 2008, [who is less than eighteen years of age,] shall attend such two hours of instruction with such applicant, except such parent or guardian is not required to attend such two hours of instruction more than one time in a three-year period. Before any such applicant is permitted to take the driver's test, such applicant shall provide an affidavit to the commissioner, signed under penalty of false statement, by an official of the driver's school, high school or other secondary school by which such course was conducted, that a parent or guardian attended the two hours of instruction required by subsection (a) of this section with such applicant.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	14-36g
Sec. 2	July 1, 2015	14-36j